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Examiner Amina S. Khan
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REMARKS

The Non-final Office Action mailed on November 6, 2007 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered regarding pending claims 1-34 and 42-60.

All prior rejections have been withdrawn.

Claims 1-34 and 42-60 stand rejected under 35 USC §112. Applicants respond to the rejections below. Applicants hereby submit a Declaration under 37 CFR § 1.32 of inventor Tremitchell Wright.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112

I. Rejection of Claims 1-11, 33, 42-57 and 60

Claims 1-11, 33, 42-57 and 60 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention in use of the language "conductive polymer".

Applicants respectfully submit that it is well settled that acceptability of the claim language depends on whether one of ordinary skill in the art would understand what is claimed, and claim language need not be precise. (MPEP 2173.05(b)). Also, in considering the meaning of an invention as claimed, its meaning must be determined based on the context of the prior art.

Claims 1-11, 33, 42-57 and 60 recite a method to a new combination of steps for cleaning a fabric load in an automatic laundering apparatus. Applicants submit that the term "conductive polymer" is definite because conductive polymers are well-known to those of ordinary skill in the dry-cleaning arts. The term conductive polymer in the context of discussion throughout the written description is a material that dissipates static electricity so as to avoid the build up of an electrical potential which is unsafe during operation of the method. For example, the Declaration and Exhibits A and B submitted by an inventor, Tremitchell Wright, explains that electrical safety standards exist in the laundering and dry-cleaning industries. Exhibit A points out that movement or tumbling of both synthetic and natural fibers produces an electrical potential when humidity is low, such is often the case when non-aqueous fluids are used in the wash liquor. Exhibit B provides the range of electrical resistivity which is needed by a conductive polymer by one of ordinary skill in the art.

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One skilled in the art of dry-cleaning would know, or be able to test decisively, whether a compound has each one of these properties and falls into the metes and bounds of the method as claimed.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-11, 33, 42-57 and 60 which are not indefinite under 35 USC §112.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-11

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention in use of the language "static charge dissipating coating, a static dissipating shield."

Applicants respectfully submit that it is well settled that acceptability of the claim language depends on whether one of ordinary skill in the art would understand what is claimed, and claim language need not be precise. (MPEP 2173.05(b)). Also, in considering the meaning of an invention as claimed, its meaning must be determined based on the context of the prior art.

Claims 1-11, 33, 42-57 and 60 recite a method to a new combination of steps for cleaning a fabric load in an automatic laundering apparatus. Applicants submit that the terms "static charge dissipating coating" and "a static dissipating shield" are definite because they are well-known to those of ordinary skill in the dry-cleaning arts. The terms "static charge dissipating coating" and "a static dissipating shield" within the context of discussion throughout the written description are materials which dissipate static electricity so as to avoid the build up of an electrical potential which is unsafe during operation of the method. As mentioned above, the Declaration and Exhibits submitted by one of the inventors, Tremitchell Wright, explains that electrical safety standards exist in the laundering and dry-cleaning industries. Exhibit A points out that movement or tumbling of both synthetic and natural fibers produces an electrical potential when humidity is low, such is often the case when non-aqueous fluids are used in the wash liquor. Exhibit B provides the range of electrical resistivity which is needed for a "static charge dissipating coating" and "a static dissipating shield" to those of ordinary skill in the art.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-11 which are not indefinite under 35 USC §112.

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III. Rejection of Claims 12-23 and 58

Claims 12-23 and 58 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention in use of the language "static dissipating material compositions."

Applicants respectfully submit that it is well settled that acceptability of the claim language depends on whether one of ordinary skill in the art would understand what is claimed, and claim language need not be precise. (MPEP 2173.05(b)). Also, in considering the meaning of an invention as claimed, its meaning must be determined based on the context of the prior art.

Claims 1-11, 33, 42-57 and 60 recite a method to a new combination of steps for cleaning a fabric load in an automatic laundering apparatus. Applicants submit that the terms "static dissipating material compositions" are definite because they are well-known to those of ordinary skill in the dry-cleaning arts. The term static dissipating material compositions in the context of discussion throughout the written description is a material that dissipates static electricity so as to avoid the build up of an electrical potential which is unsafe during operation of the method. As mentioned above, the Declaration and Exhibits submitted by one of the inventors, Tremitchell Wright, explains that electrical safety standards exist in the laundering and dry-cleaning industries as described above. One skilled in the art of dry-cleaning would know, or be able to test decisively, whether a material composition falls into the metes and bounds of the method as claimed.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12-23 and 58 which are not indefinite under 35 USC §112.

IV. Rejection of Claim 15

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention in use of the language "conductive material."

Applicants submit that acceptability of the claim language depends on whether one of ordinary skill in the art would understand what is claimed, and claim language need not be precise. (MPEP 2173.05(b)). One skilled in the art of dry-cleaning would know, or be able to

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test decisively, whether a compound has each one of these properties and falls into the metes and bounds of the method as claimed in claim 15 as described above with respect to claims 1-11, 33, 42-57 and 60.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15 which are not indefinite under 35 USC §112.

V. Rejection of Claims 16, 17, 27 and 52

Claims 16, 17, 27 and 52 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention in use of the language "static dissipating composition."

Applicants submit that the terms "static dissipating material compositions" are definite because they are well-known to those of ordinary skill in the dry-cleaning arts. The term static dissipating compositions in the context of discussion throughout the written description is a material that dissipates static electricity so as to avoid the build up of an electrical potential which is unsafe during operation of the method. As mentioned above, the Declaration and Exhibits submitted by one of the inventors, Tremitchell Wright, explains that electrical safety standards exist in the laundering and dry-cleaning industries as described above. One skilled in the art of dry-cleaning would know, or be able to test decisively, whether a material composition falls into the metes and bounds of the method as claimed.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of amended claims 16, 17, 27 and 52 which are not indefinite under 35 USC §112.

VI. Rejection of Claims 24-34, 59 and 60

Claims are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention in use of the language "predetermined quantity."

Applicants submit that language depends on whether one of ordinary skill in the art would understand what is claimed, and claim language need not be precise. (MPEP 2173.05(b)). Claims 24-34, 59 and 60 do not recite a composition of matter but recite a method which includes a new combination of method steps. in one embodiment the method provides for this

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auto-detection mechanism and optional heating of the fabric. The predetermined quantity of moisture can vary and the claims recite a method relating to the relative moisture content of the fabric. Applicants submit that a claim is not indefinite where relative amounts (i.e. "optionally heating when the moisture content is above a predetermined quantity") properly define the method.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of amended claims 24-34, 59 and 60 which are not indefinite under 35 USC §112.

VII. Rejection of Claims 24-34, 59 and 60

Claims 24-34, 59 and 60 are rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, for being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention in use of the language "predetermined quantity."

Paragraph [0066] of the Applicants specification as filed describes at least one embodiment in which the control mechanism for the heater can sense or detect the moisture content in the clothing to increase the heat and reduce the moisture content prior to increase the heating capacity if the initial fabric load is a wet load, such as a rain soaked clothing or towels, etc. Commonly, the fabric load is generally dry prior to washing and before adding non-aqueous fluid. Accordingly, the machine may sense that the initial fabric load is a wet load and the consumer may select a initiate a wash cycle by selecting the wet load start cycle in which case the heater will dry the clothes before adding the non-aqueous fluid. Thus, in one embodiment the method provides for this auto-detection mechanism and optional heating of the fabric. Although the word "predetermined" is literally mentioned, it is understood by the disclosure that the predetermined quantity can vary and the claims recite a method relating to the relative moisture content of the fabric. Applicants submit that a claim is not indefinite where relative amounts (i.e. "optionally heating when the moisture content is above a predetermined quantity") properly define the method.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of amended claims 24-34, 59 and 60 which are not indefinite under 35 USC §112.

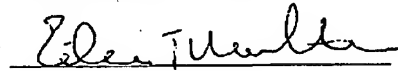
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Art Unit 1751**Conclusion**

In summary, Applicants believes that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action mailed on May 18, 2006, and that Applicants' claims include features that patentably define over the cited references. It is respectfully requested that for the foregoing reasons claims 1-34 and 42-60 of this application be found in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes there are any further matters, which need to be discussed in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2051, referencing our Docket No. US20030459 (31480.6).

Respectfully submitted,

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